(c) the reasons for not including the issues like the occupation of Sikkim, occupation on the land of Arunachal Pradesh, China's view on Mac Mohan line, supply of arms to Pakistan by China, etc. in the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) During his visit to China, Prime Minister exchanged view with the top leadership of the People's Republic of China on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual concern. A Joint Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China was signed by the two Prime Ministers. Ten agreements were also signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers, namely: (i) MoU on Simplifying Visa Procedures; (ii) MoU on Espanding Border Trade; (iii) MoU on Cooperation betwen the Ministry of Law and Justice of India and the Supreme People's Prosecution Service of China; (iv) Executive Programme for Educational Cooperation and Exchanges (2003-06); (v) Executive Programme for Cultural Exchanges (2003-05); (vi) MoU for the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centres in Capitals; (vii) MoU for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy; (viii) MoU for Cooperation in the field of Ocean Science and Technology; (ix) MoU for Cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology of india and the National Science Foundation of China; and (x) protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Mangoes from India to China.

The two sides agreed to address differences through peaceful means in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner.

Visit of U.S. team to discuss sending troops to Iraq

474. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during Deputy Prime Minister's visit to USA, it was decided that in view of the priority attached to the India's own defence needs, a U.S. team would be sent to India to discuss the desirability and feasibility of sending a peace keeping force by India to Iraq;

(b) if so, whether such U.S. team has since visited India; and

(c) the outcome of their visit, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) During the Deputy Prime Minister's visit to USA., the U.S. officials reiterated their desire to send team to India to offer clarifications on issues pertaining to the U.S. request to India to consider deployment of Indian troops in Iraq.

(b)Yes, Sir. A U.S. delegation has since visited India and held discussions on 16th June 2003.

(c) The Government held intensive consultations with the U.S. delegation in order to have a better appreciation of the situation. The U.S. delegation gave a briefing on the political, economic and security situation in Iraq and outlined the political and operational context of a possible deployment of troops by India in Iraq.

PM'S comments on Indian troops for Iraq

475. DR. AKHILESH DAS:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister in his recent 3-Nation tour of Germany, Russia and France at a Press Conference in Lausanne spelt out five questions that India expects to be answered before India could consider sending or not sending its troops for stabilisation process in Iraq;

(b) if so, what specific questions were posed that needed to be answered before consideration of the proposal; and

(c) what answers, if any, have been provided thererto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On June 2, responding to queries in a Press Conference in Lausanne, the Prime Minister had indicated that India needs answers to some questions before it can consider sending troops for the stabilisation process in Iraq. The questions referred to were: (1) Why are the Indian forces being asked for? (2) Would they be tasked with maintenance of law and order, or in the event of any potential revolt, would they be required to use force? (3) How long will our troops be required to stay? (4) What is the road-map for Iraq? (5) Under whose command would our troops function?